

Message Text

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TAGS:

SUBJECT: DDR RESPONSE TO CULTURAL PLAN

REF: BERLIN 7307

1. DR. WERNER BETTIN OF MFA CULTURAL SECTION MET WITH PAO JANUARY 24 TO RESPOND REFTEL PROPOSALS FOR CULTURAL PLAN. BETTIN GAVE DDR REPLY TO OUR DECEMBER 17 PRESENTATION, THEN SUBMITTED DDR'S COUNTER-PROPOSALS FOR ITS CULTURAL PLAN. HE OPENED DISCUSSION BY STATING
DDR'S AGREEMENT ALL FIVE OUR PROPOSALS, WITH COMMENTS ON EACH AS FOLLOWS.

2. FILM RETROSPECTIVE: BETTIN SAID ALL FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DETAILS SHOULD BE HELD WITH MINISTRY OF CULTURE'S FRAU NINDL, WITHOUT INVOLVING

MFA. PAO BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED HIS WASHINGTON IMV CONSULTATION OF JANUARY 17, SINGLING OUT PROBLEMS OF LANGUAGE, ADMISSION AND REATURE FILMS. WHEN BETTIN SAID LIST OF FILMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE MFA, PAO QUESTIONED NEED FOR SUCH PROCEDURE, TO WHICH BETTIN REPLIED DDR MIGHT WISH KNOW WHAT FILMS WORTH
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PURCHASING.

3. PAUL STRAND EXHIBIT: BETTIN INSTRUCTED THAT ALL DETAILS BE WORKED OUT WITH DR. MERTINK, SECRETARY OF DDR KULTURBUND, WHICH HANDLES EXHIBITS (SUCH AS CURRENT FRG PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT AT TELEVISION TOWER). PAO EXPLAINED NATURE OF PROBLEM IN EXHIBITING STRAND BASED ON JANUARY 19 DISCUSSIONS WITH ICS' LOUDEN, NAMELY, PHILADELPHIA MUEU

M'S

INISTENCE ON PERFECT CONDITIONS RELATIVE TO TEMPERATURE, SECURITY, ET
C.

BETTIN REPLIED THAT DDR HAD NO OBJECTION TO HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY, AS
PROPOSED BY OUR SIDE, BUT THAT EXHIBIT SPACE THERE MEETING
PPILADELPHIA MUSEUM'S STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS DID NOT EXIST. PAO
AGREED EXPLORE WITH MERTINK OTHER VENUE POSSIBILITIES.

4. PERFORMING ARTS: BETTIN CONFIRMED THAT DDR FAVORS FULL GOVERN-
MENTAL SUBSIDY FOR PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS AND WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWIN
G

IN ADVANCE LIST OF POSSIBLE ATTRACTIONS UNDER CONSIDRATION. PRE-
REVIEWEDDISCUSSION WITH CU/ARTS OF JANUARY 18, AND WHILE NOT
IDENTIFYING ARTISTS, SAID NO LARGE GROUPS BEING CONTEMPLATED. BETTIN
SAID THIS WAS MATTER FOR U.S. SIDE, BUT THAT DDR NOT OPPOSED TO LARG
E
ORCHESTRAS.

5. LITERARY SEMINAR: BETTIN SAID MFA HAD REQUESTED MINISTRY HIGHER
EDUCATION ELABORATE WITH IDEAS, BUT TO DATE NO WORD HAD BEEN RECEIVED

.
MFA FAVORED NAME WRITER AND HOPED KNOW IDENTIY PRIOR TO FIRING OF
PROGRAM.

6. IREX: DDR FAVORS ENLARGING NUMBER OF SCHOLARS IN ACADEMIC
EXCHANGE BUT AS YET HAS NO NEW CANDIDATES TO PROPOSE. EXPECTS LIST
SHORTLY.

7. UPON COMPLETION HIS REMARKS OUR PROPOSALS, BETTIN ADDED COMMENT
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THAT IN DDR VIEW, U.S. PLAN WAS TOO MODEST AND DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH.
CONSEQUENTLY, HE WOULD NOW SUBMIT DDR IDEAS FOR MUCH WIDER PLAN
AFFECTING CULTURAL RELATIONS BOTH COUNTRIES. READING FROM LONG MEMO-
RANDUM, BETTIN OUTLINED SUGGESTIONS WHICH FOLLOW:

A - EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE DRESDEN ART TREASURES AND BROOKLYN
MUSEUM AFRICAN EXHIBITS BY INVITING ART HISTORIANS FOR LECTURES ON
BOTH; IN CONNECTION WITH THE DRESDEN EXHIBIT, ALLOWING ART FILMS ABOU
T
DRESDEN TO BE SHOWN; AND ISSUING A USG GUARANTEE FOR THE SAFETY OF
BOTH EXHIBITS.

B - DDR INVITES ONE OR MORE MAJOR AMERICAN MUSEUMS TO MOUNT
A LARGE ART EXHIBIT IN THE DDR ON THE LEVEL OF THE DRESDEN EXHIBIT.

C - DDR REQUESTS AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL IN THE COUNTRY MUSEUM OF ART IN LOS ANGELES.

D - DDR INVITES US TO THE LEIPZIG DOCUMENTARY FILM WEEK

EITHER AS ACTIVE PARTICIPANT OR OBSERVER, TOGETHER WITH A US DELEGATION. LIKEWISE, DDR WOULD EXPECT SEND OWN DELEGATION TO US SIMILAR FESTIVAL.

E - DDR INVITES U.S. PARTICIPATE IN BERLIN CULTURAL FESTIVAL (FESTTAG) - WHICH BETTIN SEPARATED FROM EARLIER PERFORMING ARTS PROPOSAL - AND WOULD EXPECT RECIPROCAL INVITATION COMPARABLE AMERICAN FESTIVAL.

F. DDR PROPOSES AN EXCHANGE OF BOOK EXHIBITS, FOR INSTANCE IN ART AND SCIENCE, TO BE HELD AT UNIVERSITIES, INSTITUTES OR LIBRARIES.

G - DDR PROPOSES MAKING THE FILM RETROSPECTIVES A REGULAR AND ONGOING FEATURE.

H - DDR SCHOLARS AND ACADEMICIANS SPECIALIZING IN LITERATURE AND GERMAN STUDIES BE INVITED TO THE U.S. FOR TRAVEL, LECTURES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEMINARS, AND U.S. SCHOLARS SPECIALIZING IN AMERICAN STUDIES SIMILARLY COME TO THE DDR. BOTH SIDES TO PROVIDE LISTS OF UNIVERSITIES FOR SUCH PROGRAMS.

I - FINALLY, AN AMERICAN DELEGATION FROM THE GERMAN-AMERICAN TEACHERS COUNCIL WOULD BE INVITED TO THE DDR FOR DISCUSSIONS AND TRAVEL.

8. BETTIN CONCLUDED HIS PRESENTATION WITH THE COMMENT THAT THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DDR WAS EAGERLY AWAITED AND THAT THE CULTURAL PROPOSALS JUST PUT FORWARD WERE A MEASURE OF THE DDR'S DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE REQUESTED THAT THE PROPOSALS BE STUDIED CAREFULLY, AND THAT WHEN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS REACHED, THE DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

COMMENT: BETTIN'S PRESENTATION WAS CAREFULLY PREPARED AND READ SENTENCE BY SENTENCE FROM A LENGTHY TYPEWRITTEN MEMORANDUM. CLEARLY, THE DDR HAS GIVEN OUR PROPOSALS CLOSE ATTENTION, FOUND THEM WANTING IN SCOPE, AND EMPLOYING THEM AS POINTS OF DEPARTURE HAS ERECTED A STRUCTURE ON SOME AND BROKEN GROUND IN OTHER AREAS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ANY DISCUSSION WITH BETTIN, HE NEVER MENTIONED THE NEED FOR A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE DDR WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR ONE IF WE AGREE TO THE ABOVE PROPOSALS, WHICH TAKEN AS A WHOLE COULD WELL SERVE OUR AND THE DDR'S CULTURAL OBJECTIVES. PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY APPEARS TO BE FULLY OBSERVED AND BROAD FRAMEWORK OF DDR PLAN, EMBRACING AREAS OF ART, MUSIC, EDUCATION, FILMS, EXHIBITS, APPEARS AT THIS TIME FULLY OBVIATE NEED FOR FORMAL AGREEMENT. EMBASSY REQUESTS WASHINGTON REACTION

AND GUIDANCE. POLANSKY

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